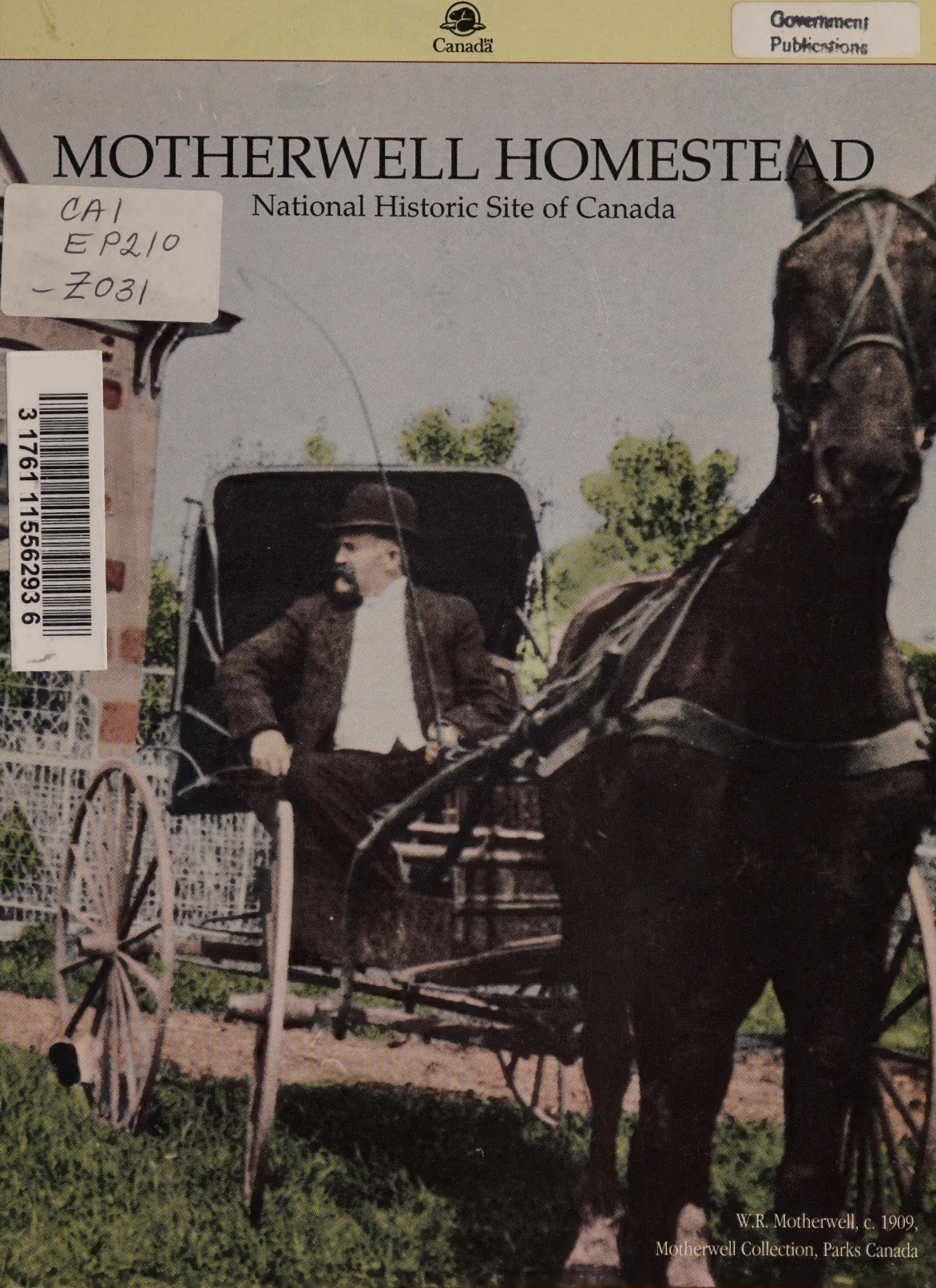
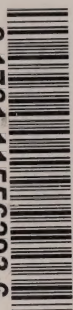


MOTHERWELL HOMESTEAD

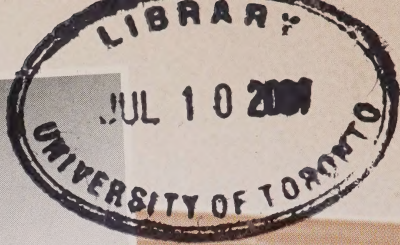
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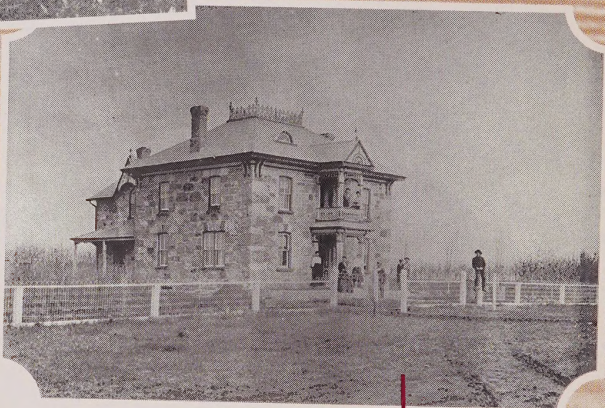
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W.R. Motherwell, c. 1909,
Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada



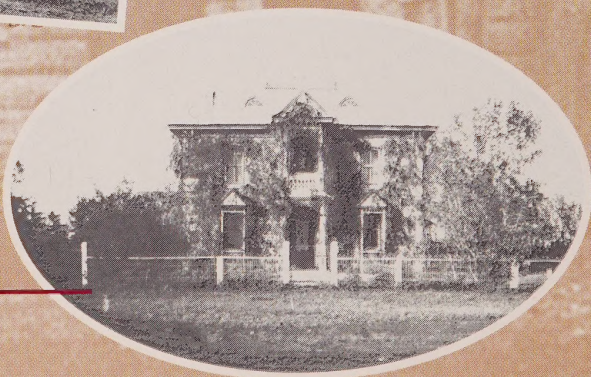
Original Motherwell house, c.1890;
Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada



The new house, c. 1905;
Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada



Lanark Place, 1912;
Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada



Lanark Place, 1943: Motherwell
Collection, Parks Canada

The
Lanark
farm
M. R. J. Motherwell
one of the first settlers
in southern Saskatchewan
He was
trained
after
was
Agricultural College.
the rest of his adult
life, Motherwell worked
for the benefit of the
Western

William Richard Motherwell 1860 - 1943

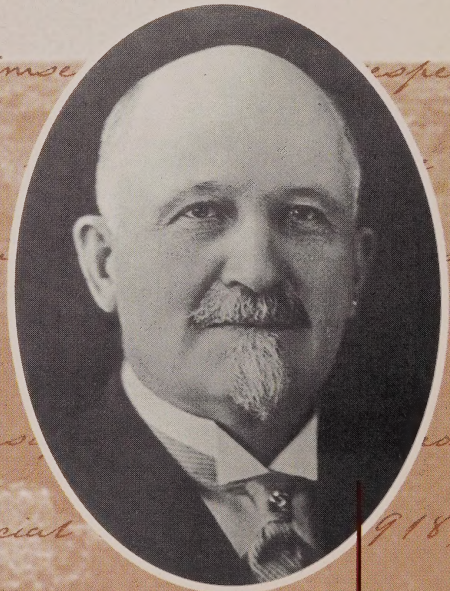
The fourth son of a Lanark County, Ontario farmer, William Richard (W. R.) Motherwell was one of the first settlers in southern Saskatchewan. He claimed his prairie homestead in 1882 after graduating with honours from the Ontario Agricultural College. For the rest of his adult life, Motherwell worked for the benefit of the Western Canadian farmer.

In 1901, he co-founded the Territorial Grain Growers' Association; in 1905 he became Saskatchewan's first Minister of Agriculture.

From this position, he promoted scientific farming practices during the formative period of prairie agriculture.

Motherwell was a man of strong convictions and blunt honesty, unwilling to compromise principles to win elections. He viewed himself as a spokesperson for the common people and was a staunch supporter of minority rights. He resigned from the provincial cabinet in 1918, in part over the issue of French language rights.

In 1922, Motherwell re-entered politics at the federal level. For seventeen years, he championed the farmer's cause, first as Minister of Agriculture in the government of Mackenzie King, then as a member of the opposition. When he retired in 1939, he was known as the "Grand Old Man of Canadian Agriculture."



W.R. Motherwell, c. 1922;
Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada

Adeline Rogers Motherwell

1861 - 1905

The Family



Adeline Rogers, age 21;
Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada

Adeline Rogers was the daughter of an Ontario farmer who had settled near Carberry, Manitoba. When she married the young Bill Motherwell in 1884, she was 23 and slim, with "olive skin, deep brown eyes and hair as black as the raven's wing."

Her new home was a three-room log house built the year before on her husband's homestead. Life in those early years was often hard. The young couple suffered the deaths of two children before Adeline bore a healthy son in 1890 and a daughter two years later.

For thirteen years, Adeline cared for her small family in the log house. Like other prairie wives, she made soap and candles, churned butter and sewed all the family clothing. She was an excellent seamstress, winning prizes at local agricultural fairs for hand and machine sewn shirts. She even found time to sew tiny dollhouse linens and a pillow filled with crocus down for her daughter.

The years of hard work, along with increasing bouts of asthma, finally took their toll on Adeline. She died in the spring of 1905 at the age of 44.



W.R. Motherwell, Adeline,
Tal and Alma, 1892;
Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada

Catherine Gillespie Motherwell 1866-1952

"One need not be a suffragette to arrive at the conclusion that there are rights and privileges denied the woman in the home that if enjoyed would not only make them happier, but their husbands also."

With these words advocating a husband-wife partnership in the 'home firm,' Catherine Motherwell, the second wife of W. R. Motherwell, addressed the first Annual Convention of Saskatchewan Homemaker's Club in 1911.

Catherine was an independent, strong-willed woman who married Motherwell in 1908. Like her husband, she was born and raised in Ontario but came west in her twenties. She was a founder of the first Saskatchewan Presbyterian of the Women's Missionary Society and a staunch supporter of temperance ideals. For nineteen years, she was a teacher and missionary to the First Nations People in southern Saskatchewan. Seven of those years were spent as principal of the File Hills Boarding School north of Abernethy. There, with her sister Janet as matron and housekeeper, she taught in English and Cree and instituted programs to acculturate First Nations children to white society.

After her marriage, Catherine supervised the farm in her husband's absence. Her sister Janet came to live at Lanark Place and her brothers Archie and J. B. eventually worked there too, managing the farm during the Motherwell's years in Ottawa. When Catherine died at 86, she had left an indelible mark on the community and Lanark Place.



Catherine Motherwell, 1911,
Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada



W.R. and Catherine Motherwell, c. 1908

Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada

Robert Talmage Motherwell

1890 - 1957

Motherwell's son Talmage was, in his sister Alma's words "a quiet lad who lived under the shadow of his eminent father most of his life." He did not have his father's political ambitions, instead preferring a farmer's life.

A year after their mother's death, Tal and his sister were moved to Regina. Their father, by then the provincial Minister of Agriculture, did not want them alone on the farm during his absences. Both Tal and Alma attended Regina Collegiate Institute. Like his father, Tal went on to study at the Ontario Agricultural College. The following year he returned to work at Lanark Place and in 1912 attended a course at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture - which his father had helped establish.

In 1913, Tal married Marion Diehl and was presented with two northern quarter sections of his father's land as a wedding gift. Over the years, he became a leader in the Agricultural Society of Abernethy, and was well-liked by his neighbours and respected for the time he spent teaching stock judging to community boys. He rarely visited Lanark Place after his marriage, but returned two years before his father's death to manage the farm.

Talmage Motherwell;
Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada



Eliza Alma Motherwell

1892 - 1974

In a series of reminiscences written in the late 1960's, Alma Motherwell recalled many happy years at Lanark Place. She remembers attending a country school and hosting parties for her classmates. "Before ice was broken and they were all sitting stiffly ... I would rush out to the kitchen and plead with my father to come to the rescue ... 'Please, Pater, the party is far too quiet - Come in and make a fool of yourself' - He never failed me!"

Like many aspiring middle-class Edwardians, the Motherwells sent their daughter to study in Europe in 1913. She later received a Masters degree in languages at the University of Saskatchewan and taught at Regina Central Collegiate for eight years.

In 1932, Alma married United Church minister Rev. A. D. Mackenzie, and later took up residence in Prince Edward Island.



Alma Motherwell, c. 1914;
Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada

When the Canadian government opened the West for settlement, the first settlers to arrive in large numbers were from Eastern Canada, mainly Ontario. At the time, rural Ontario was overpopulated. Most farmers had large families but small farms, and could not leave land to all their sons. The prairies offered a chance for these sons to acquire land of their own.

Their early arrival enabled the Ontarions to claim much of the best land. They also took advantage of additional quarter sections offered free or at low prices by the federal government and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR).

Later settlers discovered that they were limited to a single quarter section because the preemption and second homestead privileges had been abolished in the 1880s. While these settlers struggled to develop their small holdings, the established Ontarions moved into positions of authority in the new society.

Homesteader near Swift Current, 1910;
Saskatchewan Archives Board
B1410(2)



The Ontarions

c. 1886-88;

Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada



Settlers in Moosomin, c. 1883;

Saskatchewan Archives Board
A5315



The Ontarions believed that hard work, Christian living and individual enterprise were the only sure roads to prosperity. Their values were those of the nineteenth century Ontario middle-class; their influence moulded the institutional framework of Western Canada.

In each of the prairie provinces, the Ontario settlers established schools, churches and judicial systems modeled after those at home. The official use of the French language was abolished in Manitoba in 1890, as was the dual-denominational education system. The transplanted Ontarions intended that the West be English speaking and protestant.



Abernethy Church, 1913-14;

Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada



Picnicers near Caystead;
Saskatchewan Archives Board

RA15,5000

W.R. Motherwell grew up in a wooded district near Perth, Ontario. By planting trees and building an Ontario-style barn and fieldstone home in the midst of the prairie, he seemed to be recreating the wooded environment of his youth.

To settle the West successfully, eastern farming methods had to be adapted to the West's dry climate and short growing season. Research at Dominion Experimental Farms, established across the West after 1886, was a corner stone of the scientific agriculture movement.

The Indian Head Experimental Farm, under the direction of Angus Mackay, carried out extensive research into the practice of summer fallowing. To preserve moisture, fields were cropped for two years and then left fallow or unplanted for a year. Results showed that summer fallow fields "banked" moisture and produced significantly higher yields than cropped fields. Although it has been largely discontinued in recent years because of susceptibility to wind erosion, at the time, the technique was supported by many area farmers, including W.R. Motherwell.

Perhaps the most significant event in the early history of dryland farming was the development of Marquis wheat in 1904 by Sir Charles Saunders. A former professor of Chemistry and Geology, Sir Charles discovered the strain a year after his appointment as Dominion Cerealist. He crossed durable Red Fife, the principal variety of wheat, with early ripening Hard Red Calcutta. The resulting Marquis strain ripened six days earlier and yielded 400 - 800 pounds more seed per acre than Red Fife. Western farmers finally had a wheat that could adapt well to the hot, dry summers and short growing season.

Dryland Farming

Lanark Place

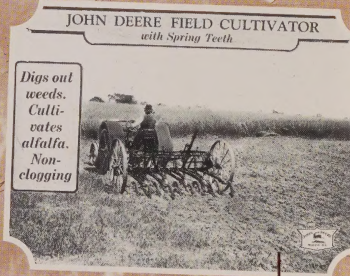
After fourteen arduous years, W.R. Motherwell had gradually expanded his original quarter section homestead into a large, prosperous farm. Now he was ready to build his estate.

He had collected fieldstone from nearby fields and Pheasant Creek Coulee for years. In 1896, he hired a stone mason to build a stone stable, a year later, his large, Italianate-style house was built.

Motherwell also designed the layout of the farmstead. Shelter belts of trees were planted for protection from the winds, a dugout was created for water collection, ornamental hedges and flower beds were installed. The overall impression was that of an Eastern Ontario farmstead. Only when his estate was complete did W. R. Motherwell name his piece of the west - Lanark Place.

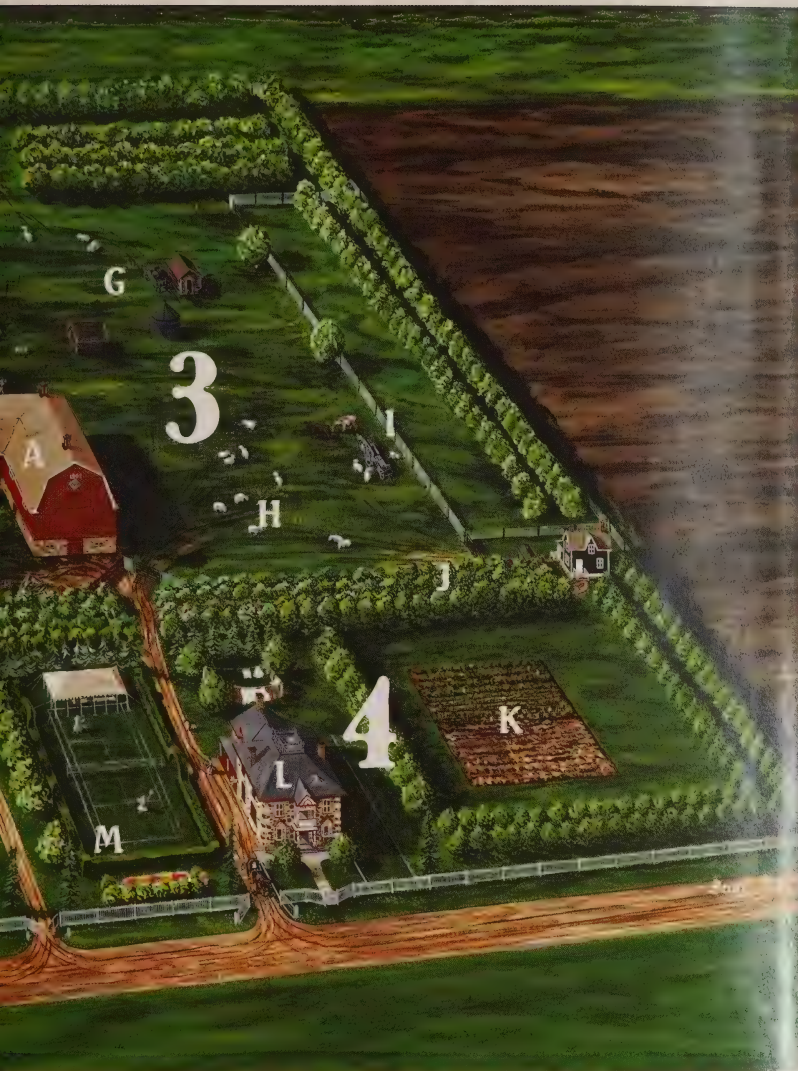
"Grain pickling," another early innovation, marks the beginning of chemical use in prairie farming. Seed was wetted thoroughly in a bluestone (copper sulphate) solution and then dried before planting. This made the seed more resistant to smut and other kernel diseases. By 1900, farmers began replacing bluestone with a more effective formaldehyde solution.

"Grain pickling," another early innovation, marks



c. 1900-1910;
Public Archives of Canada
PA-37837

Copper solution and then dried before



- (G) The granaries were used to store grain until it could be cleaned and transported to the railway for shipment to market.
- (H) Motherwell designed the work yard as an enclosed area where activities such as threshing, preparation of grain and fodder, and work on equipment could be done in relative comfort.
- (I) Around 1911, Motherwell bought a Garr Scott Big Cylinder 'Tiger' threshing machine to improve the efficiency of his operation. The Case threshing machine now on the site was probably brought to the farm during the First World War.
- (J) Lovers' Lane - Manitoba maple and chokecherry trees line this small roadway, which separated the ornamental areas of Lanark Place from the work yard.
- (K) The area just north of the house served a variety of purposes. Potatoes and corn were sometimes planted here, and during the 1930s, Motherwell turned it into an orchard.
- (L) Motherwell hired Adam Cantelon, a local stone mason, to construct the large Italianate-style house from stones Motherwell himself had collected from his fields and Pheasant Creek Coulee.
- (M) The ornamental gardens reflected the formality of Victorian society. Laid out in geometric fashion, the flowerbeds contained nasturtiums, phlox and lupines. Various flowering bushes and trees highlighted this decorative portion of Motherwell's farm.

Quadrant System

Lanark Place was laid out in quadrants. Each had its own purpose and was separated by a tree line, which provided both beauty and shelter. Most of the trees were Manitoba maples, planted at four-foot intervals to break the harsh prairie winds. Around the dugout, Motherwell also interspersed hardy species such as ash, willow, chokecherry and poplar.

1) The Dugout Quadrant

Until the dugout was excavated, water was hauled by a horse-drawn stone boat from Pheasant Creek, a half mile away.

2) The Garden Quadrant

The garden was the sunniest and warmest of the quadrants. Protected on four sides by shelter belt plantings, it provided an excellent location for growing most of the family's fruit and vegetables.

3) The Barn Quadrant

This section, bordered on all sides by shelter belts of trees, was the centre of Motherwell's mixed farming operation. It was dominated by the largest L-shaped barn in the district.

4) The House Quadrant

This was the showcase of the farmstead. Containing house, flower beds, ornamental trees and tennis lawn, it reflected Motherwell's social position within the community.

Men & Machines

Until the 1940s, the draft horse was the primary source of power on most prairie farms. The steam traction engine had been introduced in the late 1800s, but was unwieldy and used mainly to power threshing machines. The gasoline tractor appeared after 1900, but did not become popular until the 1920s. It was not until

after World War II that the draft horse, unable to compete with machines in terms of power and comparative cost, became obsolete.

Seager Wheeler

Seager Wheeler was a Rosthern area farmer who earned the title World Wheat King for his research into various wheat and barley strains. In 1919, his book "Profitable Wheat Growing" was published, contributing a synthesis of dryland farming knowledge to the scientific agriculture movement.



Hart Parr tractor and Gang Plough;
Ben Noble Collection,
Parks Canada



Until the 1940's, the draft horse was the primary source of power on most prairie farms. The steam traction engine had been introduced in the late 1800's, but was unwieldy and used mainly to power threshing machines. The gasoline tractor appeared after

As Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture, W. R.

Motherwell understood that new farming techniques and grain varieties could only help prairie farmers if they were aware of them.

To spread the word, he established the Better Farming Train, spoke to agricultural societies and educated farmers through pamphlets and correspondence. In 1908, he helped found the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He transferred the more popular activities from his department to the university and recruited most of the original faculty from his own staff.

Better Farming Train

The Better Farming Train was Motherwell's unique method of keeping provincial farmers informed about new farming techniques. It travelled the province in the summers of 1914 through 1918, eighteen cars long, filled with exhibits on all aspects of Western farming. Thousands of men, women and children visited the train, where they attended lectures and demonstrations given by Motherwell's staff and personnel from the College of Agriculture.



Spreading The Word

As Saskatchewan's

Minister of Agriculture,

Motherwell with unidentified man,
c. 1912; Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada

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Farming Train, spoke to

W.R. Motherwell and Sask. Dept. of Agriculture,
1908; Saskatchewan Archives Board, B2811

educated farmers through

"They just don't give a damn..."

East Milks West

By 1890, Western farmers were angry. Prime Minister John A. Macdonald's National Policy of protective tariffs forced them to sell their wheat at depressed prices on the open market, yet pay inflated prices for Eastern manufactured goods.

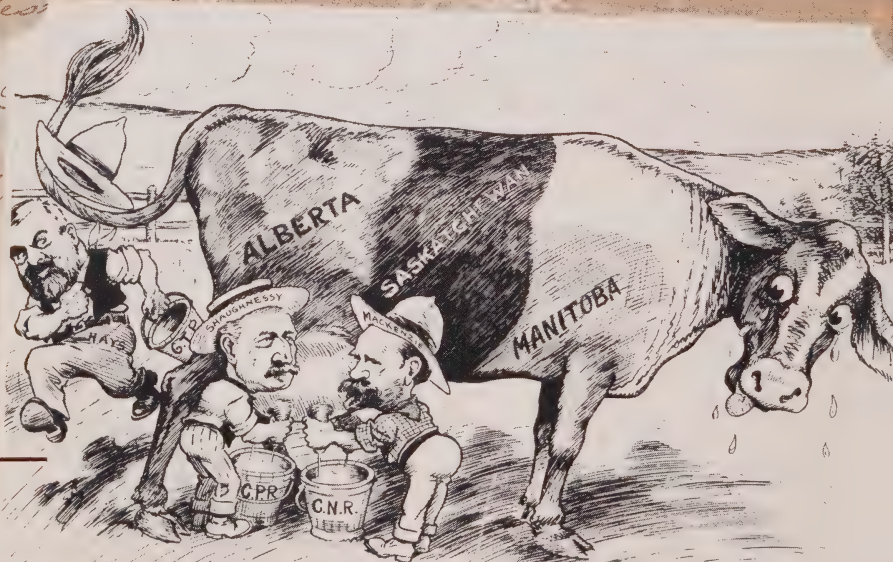
Farmers resented the CPR's monopoly and its granting of exclusive grain loading rights to the elevator companies. They worked hard to produce their grain and felt that the elevator companies gave them short weight for it. They formed a series of protest groups to voice their anger and frustration.

The first groups, such as the Manitoba and Northwest Farmers' Union and the Farmers'

Protective Union, lobbied the Dominion government for change. They were largely ignored. Believing they would get action if they ran for office themselves, Western farmers next organized the Patrons of Industry. After suffering a crushing defeat in the 1896 election, they realized they would succeed only if they addressed specific issues rather than sweeping reforms.

Car Shortage Leads to Grain Dumping

Western farmers were jubilant in the summer of 1901. They harvested 62 million bushels of wheat, a record bumper crop, and carted it to CPR market centres. Their joy evaporated when they were told the CPR could not ship it; there was a shortage of cars. Anger mounted as farmers were forced to store the grain for long periods, and accept a low price for it to cover the storage charges. Farmers held 'Indignation Meetings' throughout the West. The time was ripe to turn anger into action.



The Milking Tournament

SHAUGHNESSY—"Say, Bill, there ain't no Water in this Stork."
MACKENZIE—"No, and this cow don't need no Bond Guarantee."
HAYS—"So, boss. I likes cream in my tea, too, boys."

Grain Growers' Guide
collection No. 27

Dec. 1915

The Territorial Grain Growers' Association was a response to the rail car shortage. It was founded at Indian Head in December of 1901 at a meeting called by W.R. Motherwell and his neighbour Peter Dayman. Motherwell was appointed provisional president. At the first convention two months later, Motherwell proposed three changes to the Manitoba Grain Act to make it easier and more cost effective for farmers to ship their grain. The resolutions were sent to Parliament and all were passed.

When it became clear that the CPR was ignoring the new clauses, W.R. Motherwell and Peter Dayman traveled to Winnipeg. On behalf of the Territorial Grain Growers', they gave notice that, if the abuses continued, they would take legal action against every railway agent in the Territories. W.R. wrote, "That this young organization would actually contemplate legal proceedings against such a huge organization as the CPR looked like such a big joke ... it was unheeded."

The Territorial Grain Growers' laid charges against the railway agent at Sintaluta for violating the Manitoba Grain Act. The CPR was found guilty and the verdict was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. For the moment, the farmers had won.

Not Good Enough

When it became clear that the CPR was ignoring



the Territorial Grain Growers', they gave notice that, if the abuses contin

Bringing wheat to trains;
Public Archives of Canada

PA-47875

Wheat Market at Wolseley, 1902;
Saskatchewan archives Board
R-B2969



the Year of Service

Motherwell's first

attempt to enter the

First Saskatchewan Government, c.1905;

Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada

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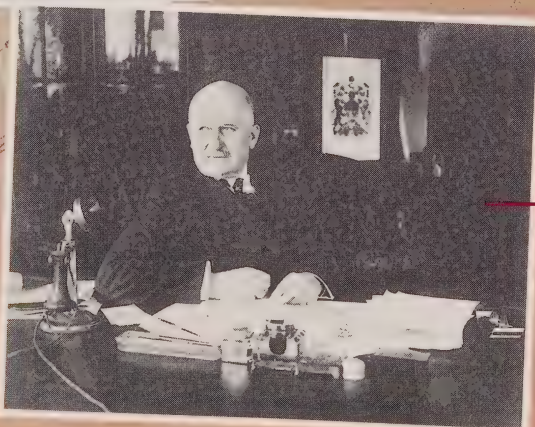
Nearly 62 y

continued to

for the in

Western farm

and great energy.



W.R. Motherwell in
Ottawa, c. 1922-26;
Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada

For his years of service and dedication as provincial Minister of Agriculture, W. R. Motherwell was admired by colleagues and constituents alike. Yet he occasionally exasperated the premier, Walter Scott, for his refusal to sacrifice principals to politics. On November 3rd, 1919 Walter Scott wrote, "You have never possessed, do not possess, and never will possess the sagacity of a mosquito in relation to elections or political management."

Motherwell was outspoken in his defence of Western Canadian interests. He opposed the conscription of young prairie men during the First World War because he felt they were needed on the farms. This isolated him from his provincial colleagues. He resigned from provincial politics in 1918, in part because he opposed the Saskatchewan government's attempt to curtail French rights.

Motherwell's first attempt to enter the political arena at the federal level was defeated. Always tenacious, he tried again and was elected to the Dominion Parliament in December of 1921. Nearly 62 years old, he continued to fight for the interests of Western farmers with his usual energy.

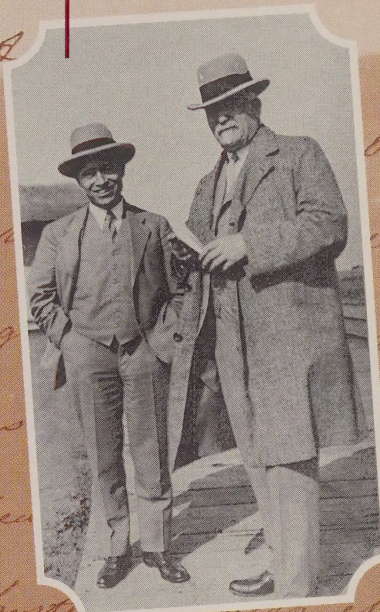
As Minister of Agriculture from 1922 - 25 and 1926 - 30, Motherwell standardized grading systems for all

forms of produce and established the Accredited Herd System to help eliminate tuberculosis in cattle. He persuaded Mackenzie King to reduce the tariff on imported agricultural implements and helped forge a close federal-provincial relationship between King and Saskatchewan premier James G.

Gardiner. Perhaps Motherwell's most important contribution was his establishment of the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory in Winnipeg in 1926.

Despite the defeat of the King government in 1930, W. R. retained his seat in the House of Commons for the next nine years. A respected elder statesman, he retired in 1939, the "Grand Old Man of Canadian Agriculture."

James G. Gardiner and W.R. Motherwell, post 1930; Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada



W.R. Motherwell, W.L. Mackenzie King and other officials opening the "Mum" show at the Ottawa Experimental Farm, c. 1929; Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada

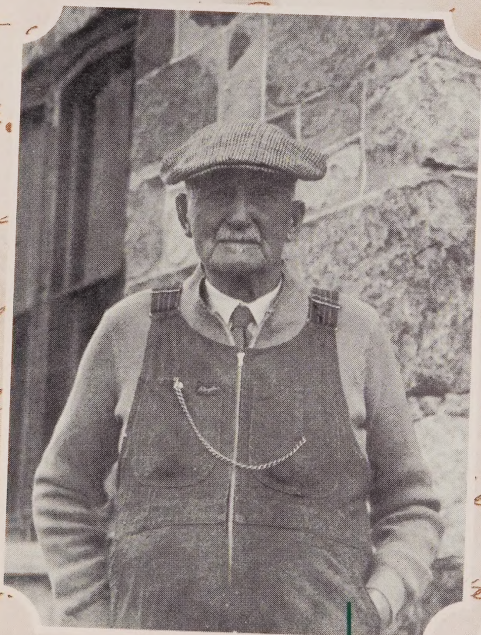


the End of an Era

When W. R. Motherwell retired to Lanark Place in 1939, the farmstead was in an advanced state of decline. Despite the infusion of his ministerial income, the depression of the 1930's had taken its toll.

Motherwell wanted Tal's son Dick to inherit Lanark Place, but after W.R.'s death in 1943, Dick purchased the house from Catherine in order to provide her with an income. After her death, Dick and his family moved to the farm. Three months later, Dick died tragically in the polio epidemic sweeping the prairies. His widow Patricia continued the farm operation as best she could, while working as a teacher and raising three daughters. In 1965, she sold the farm to Hugh Stueck, a great-nephew of Englehardt Stueck, W. R.'s former neighbour and friend. Hugh Stueck donated the farmstead to the Saskatchewan government, to be used to commemorate W. R. Motherwell.

Since 1966, Parks Canada has been engaged in restoring Lanark Place to the pre-World War I period, the peak of Motherwell's career and farm.



W. R. Motherwell, c. 1940-43;

Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada



Richard Motherwell;
Motherwell Collection,
Parks Canada

W.R. Motherwell Timeline

1882 - 1943

1882 - Claims homestead and preemption
quarter sections, builds a temporary sod house;
320 acres to date

1884 - Marries Adeline Rogers

1883 - Builds log house and breaks 25 acres with a
yoke of oxen and plough

1890 - Son Talmadge born

1889 - Has 45 acres rail fenced, makes entry for
second homestead, 100 acres under cultivation,
30 head of cattle; 480 acres to date

1892 - Daughter Alma born

1897 - Builds stone house and excavates dugout,
purchases quarter section of CPR land;
640 acres to date

1896 - Builds L-shaped stone stable, begins planting
rows of shelter belts, hedges and decorative trees

1901 - Becomes first president of the Territorial
Grain Growers' Association; begins cultivating
brome grass for seed

1905 - Wife Adeline dies; WR becomes Saskatchewan's
first Minister of Agriculture

1906 - Purchases quarter section of school land;
960 acres to date

1907 - Wooden barn constructed on stone stable,
builds implement shed

1908 - Marries Catherine Gillespie; builds hired
men's cottage, adds four more belts of trees to
house quadrant

1917 - Resigns cabinet post in provincial
Liberal government

1918 - Resigns provincial seat

1921 - Wins election to House of Commons

1922 - Becomes federal Minister of Agriculture in
Liberal government of Mackenzie King

1930 - Retains House of Commons seat,
though Liberal government ousted

1939 - Retires from politics, returns to Lanark place

1943 - Dies at age 83

**One of Canada's Family
of National Parks and
Historic Sites**

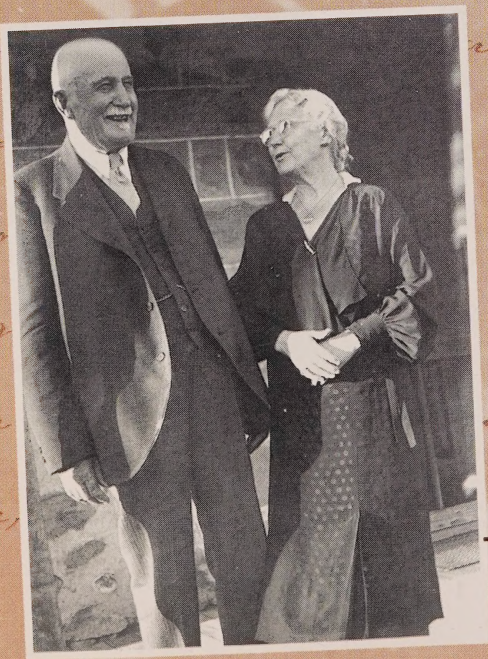
Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site

In 1966 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada designated W.R. Motherwell as an eminent Canadian for:

- his contributions to the development of agriculture on the prairies
- his activities as a farm activist and reformer
- his years of service as a provincial and federal Minister of Agriculture

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board also recommended that Motherwell's farmyard be restored to illustrate the architecture and landscape of a prairie farmstead of the pre-World War I time period.

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Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.



W.R. and Catherine Motherwell,
Motherwell Collection, Parks Canada